

“WISDOM’S BEGINNINGS”

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Proverbs 1:1-7

¹ The proverbs of Solomon, son of David, king of Israel:

² To know wisdom and instruction,
to understand words of insight,

³ to receive instruction in wise dealing,
in righteousness, justice, and equity;

⁴ to give prudence to the simple,
knowledge and discretion to the youth—

⁵ Let the wise hear and increase in learning,
and the one who understands obtain guidance,

⁶ to understand a proverb and a saying,
the words of the wise and their riddles.

⁷ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge;
fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Questions:

1. What is the difference between reverencing God and being terrified of God? Why is this difference important for how we relate to God?
2. What other motivations in your life compete against "the fear of the Lord"? What other motivations define what you do in the present and how you plan for the future?
3. Where do you need wisdom in your life right now? How does "the fear of the Lord" orient you to wisdom in this area?
4. Is there anyone in your life who is asking for wisdom? Do you see a way to introduce this person to God, the source of wisdom?
5. Foolishness has marked us all. How has foolishness played a part in your life? Have you seen God's grace at work in your foolishness? What have you learned personally?
6. What difference should this make in your life this week? What's one important takeaway that you want to carry with you and apply?